

Little Grand Rapids First Nation



**Little Grand Rapids
Draft Community Based Land Use Plan**

Little Grand Rapids - Ontario Planning Area

Little Grand Rapids First Nation
and
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

November 2010

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(0.04, P.R. 10 11 09)
ISBN 978-1-4435-4949-3

Little Grand Rapids Draft Community Based Land Use Plan

Little Grand Rapids-Ontario Planning Area

Table of Contents

Foreword	i
Draft Plan Summary	ii
 PART A: PURPOSE AND PROCESS	
A.1. Introduction	1
A.2. Guiding Direction - Vision Goals Objectives and Principles	2
A.3. Land Use Planning Area	4
A.4. Process & consultation	8
A.5. Information Summary	10
 PART B: DRAFT LAND USE PLAN PROPOSALS.....	
B.1. Proposed Zoning.....	12
B.2. Strategic Direction:.....	14
B.3. Summary of the Proposed Land Use Plan Design.....	18
B.4 Proposed Implementation Direction	19
 PART C: NEXT STEPS - from Draft to Final Plan.....	21

Figures:

Figure 1: Reference map - Little Grand Rapids Community Based Land Use Plan

Figure 2: Little Grand Rapids Draft Community Based Land Use Plan - Proposed Zones

Notes on language:

- In the text, the names 'Little Grand Rapids First Nation' and 'Little Grand Rapids' both refer to the First Nation, the community and its people. With respect, the acronym is 'LGR'.

Foreword:

Little Grand Rapids First Nation is leading the preparation of land use direction for trapline areas that are situated in both Ontario and Manitoba. Although there are two separate planning processes - one with each province - Little Grand Rapids is considering planning with a holistic view, to prepare direction that will be meaningful for their entire area of interest. Please note that planning areas do not necessarily define Little Grand Rapids' full self-described traditional land use area.

A primary reason for Little Grand Rapids to engage in planning is for the well-being of future generations. Planning will document community priorities, desired uses and opportunities, and provide strategic direction for the management of lands and resources. The plan will reflect a consensus among the community members and with the provinces.

The Little Grand Rapids Draft Community Based Land Use Plan presented in this document addresses an area in the Far North of Ontario. Little Grand Rapids is working together with Ontario to prepare this as part of Ontario's Far North Planning Initiative.

Draft Plan Summary

Since 2009, Little Grand Rapids has been leading a Community Based Land Use Planning process, working together with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to address trapline areas in Ontario, north of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Little Grand Rapids is also working together with the province of Manitoba to complete planning for their entire area of interest.

Planning began with traditional land use and occupancy interviews held with elders and other members of the community, documenting cultural lands, values and ecological information as well as detailed plant and animal information. Ontario contributed information on landforms/vegetation mapping, fish and wildlife, geology, and land use (existing and potential).

Over the past year, the planning team has continued a dialogue, analyzed information and sought advice. The Draft Plan is now being shared for consideration by all interested people, on the basis that it meets the goals, objectives, and principles set out by Little Grand Rapids and Ontario, including emerging direction with the Ontario Far North Planning Initiative. Strategic direction speaks to respect for traditional use and other existing land uses, protection of the environment, and identification of opportunities that can contribute to a stronger community economy.

The Draft Plan recommends zoning the planning area as a protected area, called '*Little Grand Rapids Dedicated Protected Area*'. This proposed zoning will support protection of lands and waters, continued traditional use and existing and new tourism opportunities. Waterways are noted to be important for traditional use and natural heritage conservation, with potential to enhance recreation and tourism opportunities. Interim direction for land use, subject to confirmation in future management planning is:

Permitted Uses:

- Aboriginal traditional activities which include (but are not limited to) hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering.
- Travel by motorized boat, snow machine or airplane.
- Recreational sport fishing, hunting, research/education
- Commercial fur harvesting, commercial fishing, commercial tourism, wild rice harvesting.

Excluded uses:

- commercial forestry, mineral exploration, mining, commercial power generation development (hydroelectric transmission or generation, wind power), new energy transmission and communication corridors, commercial bait fishing
- road building, aggregate extraction, peat extraction.

The type of protected area and regulatory mechanism will be determined jointly by Little Grand Rapids and Ontario following approval of the plan. Additionally, Ontario shares Little Grand Rapids' interest in exploring arrangements to continue working together in the management of lands and resources, including developing a relationship with Little Grand Rapids within the MB-ON Interprovincial Wilderness Area. It is noted that completion of Little Grand Rapids' land use plan will contribute to the submission for the 'Pimachiowin Aki' Boreal Forest World Heritage Site (WHS) nomination, in which Little Grand Rapids is one of seven proponents.

Planning will continue between the Draft and Final Plan to consider all input and response to the Draft Plan and to confirm, or adjust direction accordingly.

PART A: PURPOSE AND PROCESS

A.1. Introduction

Little Grand Rapids First Nation is an Ojibway (Saulteaux) speaking community that resides 257km North East of Winnipeg. According to the regional 2003 population statistics Little Grand Rapids has an on reserve population of 989 and an off-reserve population of 282. Current economic pursuits available are fishing, trapping and seasonal rice harvest. It is through the creation of a Community Based Land Use Plan (CBLUP) that Little Grand Rapids and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) are working to address protection needs and encourage the growth of a healthy and sustainable economy, for both the community and the province, by defining opportunities associated with lands and resources.

Little Grand Rapids has been working with the OMNR since 2004. Dialogue began with an expression of interest in planning. The neighbouring communities of Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi determined that planning would be undertaken separately by each community, in concurrent processes, and with respect for ongoing dialogue with other neighbouring communities and with Manitoba.

In 2009, Little Grand Rapids and OMNR reached consensus on and approved a Terms of Reference for preparation of a Community Based Land Use Plan and have since been engaged in a formal planning process. The planning dialogue has moved forward within the context of community objectives, the UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination, and the objectives of the Ontario Far North Planning Initiative. An additional discussion of context and relationships follows:

- Little Grand Rapids has a close relationship based on historical and family ties with the adjacent community to the north, Pauingassi First Nation. The communities are working closely to share information and planning dialogue, and make the most efficient use of travel and meeting arrangements.
- Little Grand Rapids is one of 7 proponents associated with the Boreal Forest World Heritage Site (WHS) nomination. This site, called Pimachiowin Aki was placed on the WHS nomination list in 2004. The next step is to prepare for the submission. Preparing land use direction in partnership with the associated provinces agencies (Ontario (ON) and Manitoba (MB)) will lead to formal implementation of land use designations, contribute to a strong submission and further illustrate the collaborative nature of the WHS proposal. In a separate, but related project, Ontario and Manitoba have identified the importance of developing a relationship with Little Grand Rapids within the MB-ON Interprovincial Wilderness Area that was established in 2008.
- Ontario's Far North Planning Initiative was launched in July 2008, with an announcement by the Premier of Ontario to protect more than 225,000 km², or more than half of the Northern Boreal Region, and to address the goals of conservation of ecosystems and functions, Aboriginal community involvement and environmentally sustainable economic development. Furthermore, on June 2, 2009, Bill 191, the Far North Act was introduced in Ontario's Legislature; the Far North Act received Royal Assent October 25, 2010. While the Ontario policy called 'Community-based Land Use Planning' (OMNR, 2002) has provided the policy umbrella for the

Little Grand Rapids-Ontario process to date, as it moves forward, the process is also taking into account the emerging policies and processes established with the Far North Planning Initiative.

- Ontario and Manitoba have an ongoing dialogue to support planning in a manner that will lead to complementary zoning and direction for activities across the provincial boundary (e.g., Atikaki - Woodland Caribou Provincial Park).

The planning process has now arrived at the Draft Plan stage and is the subject of consultation within the First Nation community and with all interested people and parties in Ontario. The Draft Plan summarizes work to date and presents proposals for land use zoning and strategic direction.

Your response to our Draft Plan is welcome.

A.2. Guiding Direction - Vision Goals Objectives and Principles

Guiding direction for the Little Grand Rapids-Ontario CBLUP has been prepared through a dialogue informed by the Little Grand Rapids historical and current relationship to the land, and by provincial goals and objectives.

A set of directional statements - Vision, Goals and Objectives - were set out in the Terms of Reference and confirmed through the first consultation opportunities in November 2009. The directional statements are presented here, with minor adjustments or editing for clarification as recommended by the planning team. A set of principles are described as they express underlying values to guide both preparation and implementation of the plan.

Vision

Little Grand Rapids vision statement clearly communicates a picture of the future based on the relationship of its people to this area and the need to sustain this relationship for future generations.

Little Grand Rapids First Nation - Vision Statement

The people of Little Grand Rapids First Nation have been part of the land from time immemorial (as long as the oldest elder of our community remembers). We believe and assert that we are part of the land. Our vision for the land is very much a vision of (for) ourselves. We wish to (use) manage our traditional land (in a way) so that our people as (being) part of the land are sustained into the future. For that purpose we are engaged in the steps needed to arrive at a land use plan for our traditional land in both Manitoba and Ontario.

The planning team is proposing the addition of a joint Vision Statement (between Little Grand Rapids and Ontario) to express the commitment to continue working together in a positive relationship for implementation of the plan:

Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Ontario value their ongoing relationship, working together for the benefit and health of people, land and water.

Goals

The plan seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Strive to sustain and protect the natural world for present and future generations;
- Identify environmentally sustainable economic developments pursuant to the strategic land use direction;
- Little Grand Rapids seeks to contribute to management of this traditional land use area, as land use can support an improved community economy, training, and jobs for our people (while) based on the health of our traditional land;
- Support and sustain Little Grand Rapids traditional knowledge, traditional land uses, and access to these lands now and for future generations; and
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will uphold and sustain our sovereign rights, both under Canada's Constitution, including Section 35, and our rights under Treaty 5, while planning for this traditional land use area and the future of our community.

Objectives

The plan provides direction supporting achievement of goals by addressing the following objectives:

- Prepare a land use plan so that it is also a communication plan to share information about the relationship of the people of Little Grand Rapids First Nation in all its aspects with their land so that it is understood and sustained.
- Support continued use of traditional lands and traditional uses and activities in both a historical, customary and current context.
- Record and share traditional knowledge.
- Identify opportunities that are desired and compatible within the area.
- Harmonize objectives of Little Grand Rapids and OMNR in land use and natural resource management.
- Define protected zones and other land use designations.
- Take into account Ontario's broader policy direction and Far North objectives for planning.
- Ensure local planning decisions do not preclude broader scale options for development.

Principles

The following principles express underlying values to guide both preparation and implementation of the plan:

- Little Grand Rapids First Nation has a duty and interest to protect and manage this land for future generations.
- Protect, respect and celebrate sacred and ancestral places and values
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation respects the historical and continued shared use of its traditional territory by neighbouring communities for traditional activities of; hunting, fishing, gathering, travel etc. There has always been overlap in traditional use areas between communities.
- Recognize the area as it is part of the northern boreal forest and its ecological processes that have shaped the landscape for millennia.
- Recognize that the continuous flow of water through this land and beyond is vital to the land and the people. Protection of water sources is of the highest importance, as is management and protection of lakes and river corridors.

Additional sources of direction for OMNR's engagement in the preparation and implementation of the land use plan include:

- OMNR Community Based Land Use Planning policy (2002);
- Our Sustainable Future (2005) which outlines OMNR's vision of sustainable development and the mission of ecological sustainability, and establishes a commitment to the conservation of biodiversity;
- OMNR's Statement of Environmental Values (2009) under the Ontario Bill of Rights; and
- Ontario's Far North Planning Initiative (2008) and the Far North Act 2010, including emerging direction on policy and planning. The objectives for land use planning in the Far North are:
 1. A significant role for First Nations in the planning.
 2. The protection of areas of cultural value in the Far North and the protection of ecological systems in the Far North by including at least 225,000 square kilometers of the Far North in an interconnected network of protected areas designated in community based land use plans.
 3. The maintenance of biological diversity, ecological processes and ecological functions, including the storage and sequestration of carbon in the Far North;
 4. Enabling sustainable economic development that benefits the First Nations.

A.3. Land Use Planning Area

3.1 Definition of the Area

The planning area is 188,738 ha in the Far North of Ontario. This area has been defined by Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Ontario as those traplines which are in Ontario, held by members of Little Grand Rapids First Nation, whose relationship to the province of Ontario is established through Treaty #5 and the Constitution (excluding those traplines or portions thereof that are within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park). Traplines do not necessarily represent the historical land use and occupancy of Little Grand Rapids First Nation, however the use of traplines to define the planning area was chosen to respect neighbouring communities and for ease of planning.

The planning area is presented in Figure 1. The area lies in the Far North of Ontario, to the west of the area defined by Pikangikum First Nation as the Whitefeather Forest, north of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, south of an area described by Pauingassi First Nation as part of their traditional land use area and west of an area described by Poplar Hill First Nation as part their traditional land use area. Other planning and administrative boundaries which are directly relevant to this initiative are noted in Figure 1 and include: Ontario's Far North; Woodland Caribou Signature Site; the Manitoba border. The surrounding communities of Red Lake, Pikangikum First Nation, and Poplar Hill First Nation are also noted on Figure 1.

From this point forward, the planning area will be referred to as the LGR-Ontario planning area.

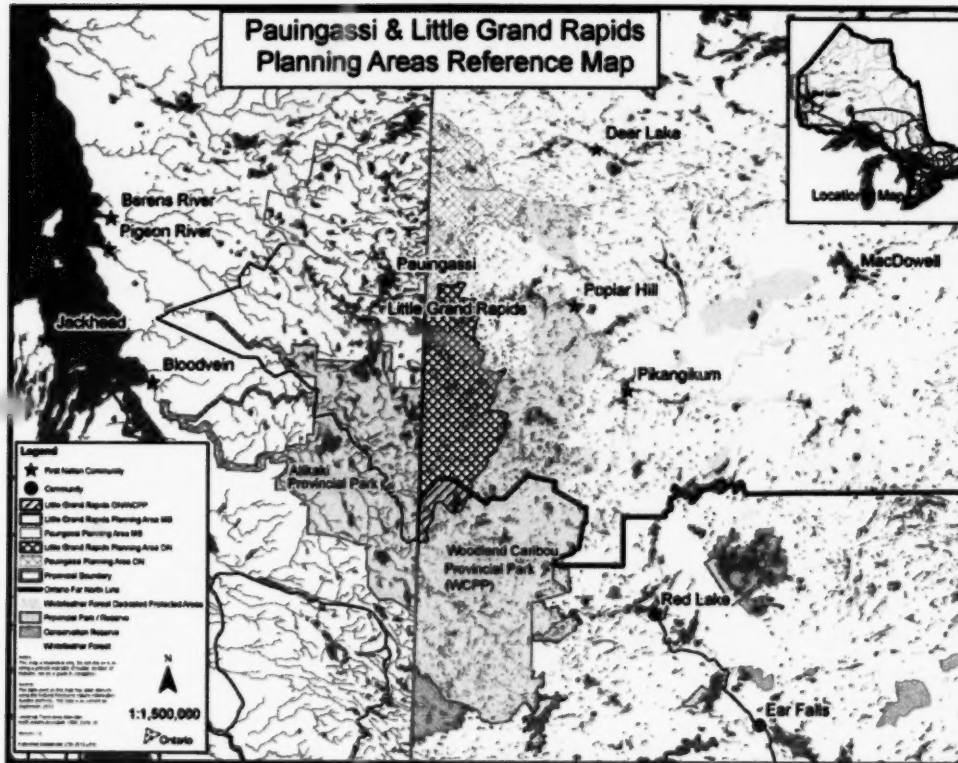


Figure 1: Reference Map - Little Grand Rapids Community Based Land Use Plan

3.2 Description of the LGR-Ontario Planning Area - Cultural, Socioeconomic, Ecological

The following description is a snapshot of the planning area with respect to its people, history, current uses, and land and resource characteristics.

3.2.1 Culture and History

Historical use of the land as defined by Little Grand Rapids includes customary land uses around traplines. It also includes use of travel routes to access trap lines and activities carried out along the way such as camping, making fires, tea breaks, rests, berry picking, fishing, and hunting. The culture and history of this area is primarily informed by the relationship of Little Grand Rapids, an Anishinaabe speaking community located in Manitoba.

In the LGR-Ontario planning area, cultural features on the landscape such as pictographs, burial and ceremonial sites have been mapped and documented as having both historical and current relevance to the people of Little Grand Rapids.

3.2.2 Current Little Grand Rapids land uses

In the present day, Little Grand Rapids First Nation members spend time on the land doing a variety of customary activities outside the community site. Traditional land uses include traditional pursuits protected by Aboriginal and treaty rights (including but not limited to trapping, hunting, and fishing) and other historical livelihood activities carried out in a traditional and /or current manner. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- hunting and fishing (personal and shared use), commercial fishing, trapping (personal and shared community use; licensed, non licensed)
- use of travel routes to access trap lines and activities carried out along the way such as camping, making fires, tea breaks, rests, berry picking, fishing, and hunting
- travel by canoe, boat, motorized vehicles, snowmobile, plane, floatplane, and in Manitoba - travel by vehicle within community and on winter road
- guiding, camping, staying in cabins
- gathering medicinal plants (personal and shared use) and gathering non-timber forest products (e.g. berries, herbs, mushrooms – for personal and shared use)
- cutting firewood
- swimming in lakes and rivers
- sacred sites/ceremonial sites
- wild rice harvest (for personal use)
- ceremonies, events, gatherings.

Caribou hunts are rarely planned and usually occur by chance. Moose are preferred as a food source because of their reliability and the large quantity of meat that is obtained. The products of the “kill” are generally shared with members of the hunting parties’ families.

There are two main historic waterways that flow through LGR-Ontario planning area, the Berens and Keeper River systems. These waterways are valued travel routes that have been used by the people of LGR since time immemorial.

3.2.3 Other Land Uses and Tenure (existing and/or historical)

Tourism in the LGR-Ontario planning area consists of a number of fishing and hunting lodges and outfitters including ten remote commercial outpost camps. OMNR has identified two additional lakes (unnamed lakes) that could support recreational fishing and hunting that could support new tourism opportunities. Associated with tourism as a land use, there are several boat caches and licences for bait fishing and six bear management areas. Bear management areas are a licensed section of crown land where bear hunting is regulated. These areas typically have potential bear habitat, and tourist outfitters or guides licensed to hunt bear.

There is one licensed wild rice harvest area on an unnamed lake west of Herod Lake.

Two private recreation camps are in the planning area and there are two patent land blocks on Spoonbill Lake.

Recreational use is common on the two main historic waterways that flow through LGR-Ontario planning area - the Berens and Keeper River system including the Malette River.

Historically, there were 5 commercial fishing licences in the planning area. The last licence ended in 1998 due to limited markets.

3.2.4 Lands and resources

The planning area is situated entirely in the Boreal Forest Region and is represented by ecoregions 3S and 4S. They are dominated by conifer stands, consisting primarily of jack pine and black spruce. Topography is gently rolling.

Water, Wetlands

Waters are vital to First Nation communities that have existed here for thousands of years, depending on waters for fishing, travel, wild rice plantations, and drinking water. Healthy rivers and lakes are a cultural and spiritual necessity for First Nation communities.

In the LGR-Ontario planning area, water generally flows from east to west; Drainage is generally towards Lake Winnipeg with many lakes, rivers, streams and rapids. Low falls occur where there are bedrock outcrops along rivers and streams.

Geology

The LGR-Ontario planning area is dominated by 2.7 to 3 billion year old rocks of the Canadian Shield composed of granite, gneisses, and ancient volcanic rocks (e.g. basalt, gabbro). Located west of the traditional territory is a younger geological formation of 400 to 500 million-year-old rocks composed of limestone and sandstone.

Surficial Geology can be generally described by:

- Organic deposits found in bogs, fens, and swamp areas where organic (plant) material settles. Organic deposits include peat, muck, and some inorganic sediment;
- 'Undivided' rock with minor Quaternary deposits from about 1.8 million years ago to the present;
- Till Veneer as a thin layer of till that is not continuous over the landscape and may include areas of rock outcrop. Till is sediment, generally consisting of well-compacted material that is layered and contains a mixture of sand, silt, and clay particles and coarse fragments; and
- Fine grained (glacio) lacustrine sediments generally consist of layered fine sand, silt, and clay deposited on an ancient lakebed, near lakeshore, or on a beach.

Climate

The LGR-Ontario planning area falls within the Sub humid Mid-Boreal Eco climactic Region, with its climate classified as continental, characterized as cold to moderately cold and snowy during the winter and warm and moist during the summer. The area is influenced by weather systems originating over the land to west, north and south. Climate of the area is also modified by the maritime influences of Hudson Bay, Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg which exert a moderating influence on temperatures and increase humidity.

This area experiences a warm summer with mean temperatures of 14°C and very cold winters with a mean winter temperature of -14.5°C. Mean annual temperature for the area as a whole is -0.4°C and the average frost-free period ranges from 80-120 days. The region is considered to be sub humid to humid with 400 to 460 mm of precipitation. The growing season in the area is between 130 and 170 days.

Forests

The forest is characterized by black spruce and jack pine stands with some paper birch. There are also abundant coniferous and mixed forest stands in the LGR-Ontario planning area. Coniferous forest stands contain white spruce, balsam fir, and black spruce. Mixed forest stands in the area contain trembling aspen, balsam poplar, white birch, white spruces and some balsam fir.

Fish

Walleye, sauger, perch, northern pike, whitefish and lake trout can be found throughout the LGR-Ontario Planning area. Sturgeon is found in the upper Berens River east of the planning area, but is not a confirmed species within the LGR-Ontario planning area. Lake sturgeon in the Berens River is classified under the Endangered Species Act (2007) as an Endangered Species.

Birds and Waterfowl

Bird species include the spruce and ruffed grouse, herring gull, and double-crested cormorant, as well as bald eagle, golden eagle, osprey, great horned owl, short eared owl, red-tailed hawk, waterfowl, sharp-tailed grouse, willow ptarmigan, common nighthawk, whip-poor-will, raven, gray jay, bald eagle, hawk owl, among others. Geese, ducks and other waterfowl are seasonally hunted. Bald eagles are considered sacred and their locations are noted. Bird species in the LGR-Ontario planning area classified under the Endangered Species Act (2007) are: golden eagle (Endangered), and the whip-poor-will, bald eagles, short eared owl, and common nighthawk (all Species of Special Concern)

Wildlife

Wildlife species typical of this area include wolf, lynx, ermine, fisher, mink, moose, black bear, woodland caribou, red squirrel, snowshoe hare, lynx, wolverine, fisher, otter, marten, beaver, short-tailed weasel, red-backed vole, and least chipmunk.

Prominent mammals are moose and woodland caribou. Beaver and muskrat not only provide valuable furs, but also good meat or eating, as do rabbits and "bush chickens" (spruce grouse in particular). Otters, bear, wolf, fox, mink, fisher, ermine, wolverine, squirrel and marten are trapped for their furs.

Wildlife species in the planning area that are classified under the Endangered Species Act (2007) are: woodland caribou and wolverine (both classified as Threatened).

A.4. Process & Consultation

Process and consultation requirement set out in the Terms of Reference are being followed, with revision as required to adjust timelines and reflect progress. Four phases were identified to complete a final land use plan over a 2-3 year timeframe. The first two phases were combined to share information and support a full consultation opportunity. Key components of each phase with updated timelines are:

Phase 1 & 2 Fall/Winter 2008/09

- Terms of Reference was shared and endorsed on April 24, 2009.
- A first Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry policy was posted on October 16, 2009.

- Background information was assembled and interests and opportunities identified.
- Little Grand Rapids led dialogue within the community and with adjacent First Nation communities.
- The LGR-OMNR planning team facilitated public consultation opportunities at meetings and a first open house on November 3rd 2009 in Red Lake, Ontario; on November 6th in LGR and on November 5th in Pauingassi.

Phase 3 Spring to Fall 2010 - WE ARE HERE

- Prepare Draft land use plan including proposed zoning and strategic direction for activities within zones.
- Share draft plan broadly, seek input and build consensus on proposals.
- Provide consultation opportunities including an updated Environmental Bill of Rights registry posting and a set of open houses in Red Lake, Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi.

Phase 4 Winter 2011

- Prepare final land use plan including discussions of how comments from Phase 3 were addressed.
- Provide endorsement through approval processes (First Nation and OMNR) reflecting a consensus on the land use plan.
- Share final plan.

Consultation

In this planning process, consultation opportunities are designed to provide for input from:

- Little Grand Rapids First Nation community;
- adjacent First Nations; and
- the Ontario public at large, interested parties and stakeholders.

LGR Community Consultation:

Within the Little Grand Rapids community, consultation has focussed on encouraging involvement and supporting open expression of views and interests. Community member's mapping and sharing understanding of traditional knowledge has supported the planning dialogue, as has the sharing of science and planning process information. A plan will reflect community consensus.

Throughout 2009, interviews were conducted to collect traditional land use and occupancy interviews with elders and other members of the community. On November 6th an open house was held in the community of Little Grand Rapids. The open house provided community members the opportunity to discuss the importance of land use planning, and provide personal inputs into the planning process. Approximately 30 people from LGR attended the community open house and shared their opinions and experiences with the planning team.

Adjacent Community Consultation:

Consultation with adjacent First Nations has been underway since the beginning of the planning process in 2008 when Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Poplar Hill and Deer Lake met with the OMNR to identify overlapping/shared areas, discuss their interests and to build an understanding of the Land Use Planning process. Community meetings with Little Grand Rapids have occurred

regularly as the Little Grand Rapids Community Based Land Use Plan developed. Individuals from Pikangikum, Poplar Hill and Pauingassi attended the first open house in Red Lake.

Public Consultation:

On October 16, 2009, a policy proposal for the LGR-Ontario Community Based Land Use Plan was posted on the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry. This posting described the project and shared the Terms of Reference broadly with the public, providing an opportunity for comment. A public consultation opportunity was provided in November 3, 2009 at an open house Red Lake. This provided an opportunity for interested people and stakeholders to view information, contribute information and to ask questions of the planning team regarding the planning process and expected outcomes. Letters were mailed out to stakeholders and notices were sent to local newspapers.

Following completion of consultation opportunities for the Draft Plan, a summary of opportunities and input will be made available. The Final Plan will include a description of consultation and how input was considered.

A.5. Information Summary

Information provided from all sources has supported the planning process. Primary information sources have been Little Grand Rapids, OMNR and the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forests (MNDMF).

Little Grand Rapids has adopted extensive data collection programs to support the development of this Community Based Land use Plan. Local individuals were trained in indigenous data collection, documenting the land uses and occupancy of the Little Grand Rapids First Nation members for the planning area and beyond. Indigenous data collection addressed cultural lands, values and ecological information as well as detailed plant and animal information.

OMNR provided information on landforms and vegetation interpreted from satellite mapping, as well as the results of field surveys (e.g. fish and wildlife surveys) and available analysis of recreation potential, hydro potential and provincially significant natural heritage features. During the planning process, proposed protected areas were evaluated for their representation of landform/vegetation complexes and enduring features.

Geological information was contributed by MNDMF including mapping of bedrock and surficial geology, and estimated mineral potential. A further analysis of mineral potential areas called Provincially Significant Mineral Potential (PSMP) was completed to support the Draft Plan.

The following mapped information was used in preparing this Draft Plan. A full data and map list, with sources of information is provided in a separate appendix to this plan, available on request.

Cultural values maps: Indicates the planning area as well as areas that the families of Little Grand Rapids members have used for generations for fishing, trapping and hunting (trap line areas). Cultural values information is held by Little Grand Rapids. It supports decision making in the planning process, however, is not provided on publicly shared maps.

Natural heritage maps: These maps identify eco-regions, fire history (year and location of fires across the region), woodland caribou\wolverine habitat survey locations, watersheds, land cover, areas of Provincial interest for the protection of natural heritage landforms and features

Recreation and Tourism Maps: Identifies outposts, boat caches and potential outpost lakes.

Land Tenure: Identifies Bear Management Areas and wild rice licence areas.

PART B: DRAFT LAND USE PLAN PROPOSALS

This section describes proposed zoning for the planning area, provides an evaluation of how proposals could achieve goals and objectives of the plan and provides recommendations for plan implementation.

B.1. Proposed Zoning

The purpose of zoning is to assign areas to specific land use designations, determine the principal land uses that may occur and establish strategic (i.e., broad) direction for permitted lands uses. Area-specific policies may be provided, adding to existing general policies for land use. Zoning strives to support the achievement of community and provincial objectives (See Part A.2), considering local to broad scale contexts, implications and linkages. Furthermore, zoning communicates the land use intent, provides a level of certainty respecting uses that may occur and provides the basis for resource management and other detailed planning.

Along with documentation in the draft and final land use plan, land use designations and associated area-specific policies will be provided in policy reports in Ontario's Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA).

The LGR-Ontario planning area is proposed to be designated as one zone:

- The Little Grand Rapids Dedicated Protected Area zone is proposed to support protection of lands and waters, continued traditional use and existing and new tourism opportunities. The type of protected area and regulatory mechanism is to be determined jointly by Little Grand Rapids and Ontario in a separate cross-cultural dialogue.

Several waterways flowing through the planning area are noted to be important for traditional use and natural heritage conservation. Significant cultural and ecological values are associated with these waterways and they have been identified as historical travel routes. These waterways will have continued traditional use and require a high level of protection of values. They may also offer distinct opportunities for activities such as tourism, guiding, cultural interpretation, research studies, etc., providing economic benefits.

Additional zoning at a resource management planning level (e.g., protected area planning) will be considered to emphasize the importance of waterways and promote complementary activities and to protect special cultural sites identified by the community will be addressed in future management planning. (These sites are not made public).

The zoning is mapped in Figure 2 on the next page.

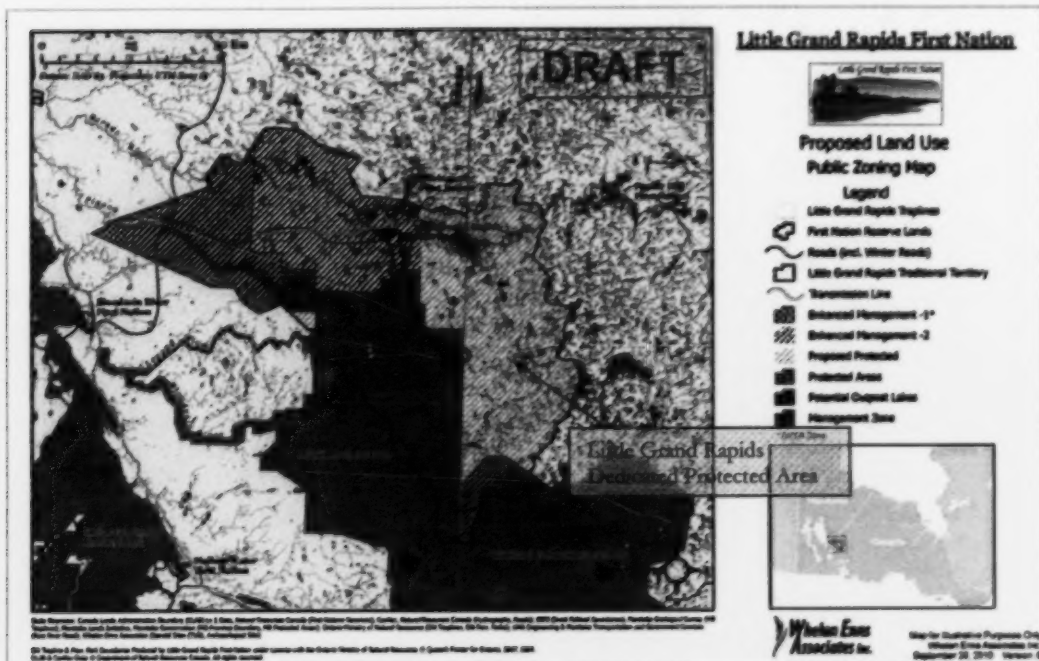


Figure 2: Little Grand Rapids Draft Community Based Land Use Plan - Proposed Zone

Description of Proposed Zone and Direction

Proposed Zone: Little Grand Rapids Dedicated Protected Area

Size: 188,738 ha

Description:

Little Grand Rapids Dedicated Protected Area (LGR-DPA) is located immediately north of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, adjacent to the Manitoba border. This landscape includes numerous lakes, such as Sharpstone, Spoonbill and Moar Lakes, each having clusters of ecological and cultural features. The LGR-DPA is traversed by a network of summer and winter traditional travel routes which are evidence of its rich cultural heritage. The headwaters of the Keeper River System, which flows northwest into the Berens River is located within the LGR-DPA. Also within the LGR-DPA and south of these river systems is the Dogskin waterway. First Nation people conduct various traditional activities on this land for livelihood and cultural purposes.

No roads exist in the LGR-DPA. There are several remote tourism base lodges and outpost camps as well as registered commercial boat caches. Current land use management in the area includes bear management areas, bait fish blocks, traplines, wild rice harvesting licences, a commercial fishing licence, and a wildlife management unit. The area is capable of supporting additional tourism and recreation opportunities based, focussed on appreciation of boreal ecological and cultural landscapes.

The LGR-DPA is notable for its clear water lakes with healthy lake trout populations. Indigenous knowledge and wildlife surveys confirm the presence of woodland caribou and wolverine in the LGR-DPA, including woodland caribou summer range and winter habitat

Land Use Intent:

The intent is to regulate the LGR-DPA as a protected area, although the specific designation and category have not been determined. The purpose of the designation is to promote protection objectives while supporting continuation of traditional uses and existing tourism, and to contribute to social and economic objectives by advancing potential for new tourism opportunities and inclusion in the Pimachiowin-Aki World Heritage Site nomination.

The land use intent recognizes the importance of waterways as historical travel routes having significant cultural and ecological values and promotes activities that are complementary to protection of those values, including protection of special cultural sites identified by the community.

This designation will protect specific values or features on the landscape that represent Ontario's geological, aquatic and terrestrial diversity, protect landscapes of natural or cultural significance and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological integrity. The area will continue to provide support for species at risk, including woodland caribou and wolverine.

Management Direction:

The following proposed direction has been developed by the planning team and is within the bounds of provincial policy. This direction is interim; additional specific direction will be determined by the final designation assigned to this Dedicated Protected Area and by future resource management planning.

Permitted Uses:

- Aboriginal traditional activities which include (but are not limited to) hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering;
- travel by motorized boat, snow machine or airplane;
- recreational sport fishing, hunting, research/education;
- commercial fur harvesting, commercial fishing, commercial tourism, wild rice harvesting.

Excluded uses:

- commercial forestry, mineral exploration, mining, commercial hydroelectric development (transmission or generation), commercial wind power development, new energy transmission and communication corridors, commercial bait fishing;
- road building, aggregate extraction, peat extraction.

B.2. Strategic Direction:

The following direction will guide how the land use plan is to be implemented and how activities and developments should take place in a manner consistent with the plan's stated goals and objectives. Specifics of land and resource use management are considered and confirmed through subsequent processes (e.g. resource management planning, environmental assessment). Strategic level direction is not intended to address specific management actions.

B.2.1 Direction for All Land Uses:

Little Grand Rapids First Nation and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources acknowledge that the preparation and implementation of this lands use plan will respect Aboriginal and treaty rights and rights under the Canadian Constitution, in particular Section 35 and will be consistent with/will not alter existing provincial legislation and will be within the bounds of provincial policy.

All land uses will take place in a manner that:

- respects Little Grand Rapids' traditional use and stewardship of these traditional lands as a recognized foundation that will help inform the use and management of these lands and waters and provide continuity in the connection of First Nation people to the land for past and future generations. Strategic direction is to:
 - bring forward traditional use and resource stewardship traditions, teachings and practices as part of a conservation approach (providing for care of the land);
 - make decisions based upon traditional values, teachings/methods and knowledge, along with science, providing the best knowledge currently available in terms of forests, land, water, wildlife, plants and fish management;
- recognizes the importance of:
 - encouraging training for youth in the future lands and resources management and opportunities;
 - building respectful, sharing relationships; and
 - relying upon the knowledge and teachings of elders.
- relies upon an ongoing knowledge base, evaluation and recommendations for best management practices and protection measures to:
 - support the ongoing health of the boreal forest;
 - promote healthy watersheds;
 - provide a continuous supply of fish & wildlife habitat, including for species at risk; and
 - protect cultural & natural heritage values from negative impacts.
- access to cultural and special sites will be solely for community members unless otherwise designated. Little Grand Rapids will identify those special sites that require additional protection measures.
- recognizes the importance of identifying and supporting achievement of economic development opportunities that could benefit the members of Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Ontario;
- respects existing stakeholder interests;
- supports definition and promotion of opportunities to mitigate climate change;
- applies current/emerging science and expertise to recommend measures in management planning that can protect ecological processes and retain the value of stored carbon in the boreal forest and ground.
- recognizes the importance of ongoing learning from experience (i.e., adaptive management) for land use activities and resource management planning
- respects the land and resources and retains the integrity of the area.
- considers local to broad scale aspects of all land uses (e.g., ecological, geographic) and cumulative effects (temporal &/or spatial).
- in the face of uncertainty or risk, uses the precautionary principle to make decisions about land use and management. The 'precautionary principle' involves acting to avoid serious or

potential harm to people or the environment where there is scientific uncertainty about likelihood, magnitude, or source of that harm.

B.2.2 Additional Direction for Specific Land Use Activities:

Traditional Uses

- Fishing and hunting for food by community members is a priority.
- Community members building hunting and trapping cabins in the planning area will identify their location to OMNR, for the purpose of fire suppression and protection of natural and cultural values.
- Community members will continue to use and maintain snow machine trails for winter access to trap lines and cabins.
- Little Grand Rapids will address direction for traditional uses in all future protected areas and resource management planning.

Commercial Trapping

- Commercial trapping can continue in the planning area.
- Little Grand Rapids direction for commercial trapping is based on the customary stewardship approach of the community and consistent with Ontario policies, including;
- All trap lines must be held by community members. If a trap line is not held by a community member it will be held in common by the community.
- Little Grand Rapids will pursue creation of a "Trapping Council" in the community, proposing that the Trapping Council would;
 - develop management policies consistent with Ontario regulations;
 - pursue the ability to sell commercial trapping licenses;
 - review any proposed changes in head trapper for each Ontario trap line.

Renewable Energy Development

- Little Grand Rapids will identify locations to be considered for community members' energy use/needs.
- Acceptable proposals for energy development would include small-scale (i.e. non-commercial, stand alone) run of the river, hydro, wind, solar and geothermal (e.g., supporting lodges, outpost camps, trap cabins, etc.)
- Additional direction may be provided within a management plan for the protected area.

Recreation

- Opportunities for Little Grand Rapids to benefit economically will be pursued in the planning and management of the protected area (e.g., partnerships, business opportunities, and participation in management.)
- Sport fishing and hunting will continue as a land use activity in the planning area following Ontario regulations.
- Private motor boat use is permitted. Existing boat caches are permitted except where protected area objectives or values are threatened. New activities will be subject to review.
- Access by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and aircraft is permitted, except where dedicated protected area values or objectives may be compromised.
- Long term direction will be provided through Little Grand Rapids-Ontario dialogue, classification, and management planning.

Commercial Fishing

- Little Grand Rapids can bring forward proposals for commercial fishing opportunities in the planning area.

Forestry

- Commercial forestry is not permitted in the LGR-Ontario planning area.
- Cutting trees may be permitted for personal use, e.g., for camps, building cabins or fire wood; Additional direction will be provided within a management plan for the protected area.
- No trees will be harvested in specified sensitive natural and cultural heritage areas.

Commercial non-timber forest products (NTFP)

- Direction to support potential for commercial NTFP opportunities will be addressed in the management plan for a protected area.

Tourism:

- Potential new opportunities will be considered jointly by Ontario and Little Grand Rapids (in light of the objectives) to determine whether, and how the opportunity will be pursued. The jointly-developed management plan for the proposed protected area may also provide direction on available opportunities.
- Recognize interest in planning new community-based tourism initiatives and promote First Nation owned operations for new tourism ventures.
- Encourage building new partnerships with existing tourism operations.
- Respect existing stakeholder interests and build a positive relationship between existing tourism operations and LGR community.
- New and existing tourism establishments must operate in accordance with environmental standards and regulations, and in some cases incorporate enhanced Best Management Practices (BMP's) for water quality protection (i.e. septic systems).

New commercial activities in the planning area (e.g. sale of water) are subject to review for consistency with the dedicated protected area objectives and values. Additional direction may be provided in a management plan

Best management practices will be used to manage human waste, garbage, effluent in the protected area.

For tourism and recreation, fuel caches for existing licensed operations will be maintained per the current license. In the future best practices will be reviewed and new conditions may be recommended for the operations.

B.2.3 Additional Direction regarding management of lands and resources

Fisheries and Wildlife Management

- Little Grand Rapids will participate in dialogue with Ontario to bring forward the community's interests in management direction for sustainable fisheries resources and wildlife management.

Species at Risk (Endangered Species Act, 2007)

- OMNR and Little Grand Rapids will work together to explore opportunities for joint research projects, gathering information and youth education projects.
- Little Grand Rapids traditional knowledge will be brought forward together with science (Ontario's Species at Risk program) to further protect habitat and the needs of species at risk.

Fire management / suppression

- All fire fighting fuel caches will be mapped. If fuel caches are in a sensitive area they will be moved.
- Little Grand Rapids and OMNR will develop a fire management plan for the protected area management plan. This plan can include identification of high value sites identified by Little Grand Rapids (e.g. cultural sites, cabins) and include identification of appropriate locations of fire fuel caches to avoid sensitive areas.

Protected Area Management

- Little Grand Rapids will participate jointly with Ontario to prepare management plans and implement direction.
- Little Grand Rapids will continue to participate in dialogue for opportunities associated with the World Heritage Site nomination and protected areas.

B.3. Summary of the Proposed Land Use Plan Design

The proposed zoning and direction reflects recommendations of the communities and the province, including input provided through consultation opportunities. The plan design strives to contribute to the achievement of goals and objectives.

The plan is a design for a Dedicated Protected Area land use designation that will:

- support communication of an understanding of the area and the relationship of Little Grand Rapids people to the land and resources by:
 - describing the nature of the area as it is defined by this relationship and associated customary and traditional uses;
 - recognition of the need for cross-cultural dialogue in the plan preparation and implementation;
 - integrating indigenous knowledge and science to support planning; and by
 - emphasizing protection of valued landscapes, and cultural and ecological features including waterways.
- support the interconnection of protected areas. At the broad scale, there is already a substantial complex of protected areas (Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, Atikaki Wilderness Park, Weeskayjahk Ohtahzhoganeeng (formerly Lake Country)), thus the Little Grand Rapids Draft Plan recommendations would further contribute to achievement of a connected, contiguous protected area of over a million hectares.
- support protection of habitat for species at risk including summer and wintering habitat and calving areas for woodland caribou throughout the entire planning area. This landscape

(planning area) is represented predominately by young jack pine and black spruce forest mix on a bedrock plateau interspersed with some large tracts of mature conifer forest. The conifer dominated forest will continue to provide valuable wintering habitat potential consistent with woodland caribou's life history strategies that are well adapted to large scale disturbances. Interconnection of the LGR-DPA within the larger complex of protected areas will also contribute to support the needs of woodland caribou in the area, providing travel corridors and substantial habitat to protect life cycle requirements for species at risk.

- promote potential for economic opportunities, including protected area management, tourism opportunities, NTFP, recreation, research and education.
- contribute to the broad-scale objectives for protection with the UNESCO World Heritage Site proposal "Pimachiowin Aki". This proposed site includes 40,000 sq km including the planning areas for Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Bloodvein, Poplar River and Pikangikum First Nations as well as two large wilderness parks. The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site is being marketed on behalf of the areas natural heritage and cultural values. It is through this nomination that we anticipate increased tourism and job creation for Little Grand Rapids.
- supports efforts in climate change mitigation and sequestration of carbon by protection of forests and peatlands.

Overall, the design seeks to focus on protection and economic development opportunities that are supported by the protection focus, within a context of the Little Grand Rapids First Nation relationship to this area.

Note: LGR-Ontario planning area lies within Ecoregion 3S and 4S and Ecodistricts 3S-1 following the Ontario's Ecological Land Classification system. Full landform/vegetation representation of the ecodistrict has already been achieved for this ecodistrict.

B.4 Proposed Implementation Direction

Providing land use direction for the LGR-Ontario planning area is an important step. To implement the plan, the following actions are being proposed;

1. For the Dedicated Protected Area, Little Grand Rapids First Nation and the OMNR will;
 - determine final protected area regulatory mechanism and designation category(ies) in subsequent dialogue (the types of protected area designations available would include existing under the PPCRA and may include new types associated with the Far North Planning Initiative);
 - provide public consultation opportunities during the process when the protected areas are regulated and /or new policy direction is provided.
 - prepare a management plan
 - through dialogue, Little Grand Rapids and the Ministry of Natural Resources will pursue an arrangement for the collaborative management of the protected area in Ontario.

2. Propose a joint approach for future decision making, with respect for Aboriginal and treaty rights, considering:
 - development of future resource management plans.
 - all information sources including Little Grand Rapids indigenous knowledge and science.
 - new uses as they can contribute to land use plan objectives, including desire for an improved community economy, training, and jobs for Little Grand Rapids First Nation people.
3. Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Ontario continue to work with their partners to prepare supporting documentation for the development of the Pimachiowin Aki UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination.
4. Little Grand Rapids First Nation will pursue a dialogue with Ontario to address the creation of a Community Trapping Council (See Section B2.2).

Subsequent to this plan, land and resource allocations, resource management planning (e.g. protected area management planning) and resource management activities will be subject to the OMNR obligations under the Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act) and other relevant legislation such as the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act and the Public Lands Act. Periodically, the effectiveness of direction and decisions contained in the strategy will need to be re-evaluated.

PART C: NEXT STEPS - from Draft to Final Plan

The Draft Plan is proposed direction. A number of requirements must be addressed to complete a final land use plan:

- Input and advice from consultation opportunities will be considered by the planning team and summarized. The preparation of a final plan will consider the input and advice received.
- Endorsement of this final plan will be required from Little Grand Rapids First Nation and from the OMNR.
- Policy reports: Land use area designations and strategic land use direction, determined through the land use planning process, will be added to the provincial atlas of land direction (Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA)), through an amending procedure.
- All recommended Dedicated Protected Areas will be under interim protection, pending formal regulation (Mining Act, Section 35 Withdrawal). Boundaries for mining withdrawals will be confirmed for the final plan.

Upon completion, the Final Land Use Plan will be shared publicly.

Your input to the Draft Plan is welcome.

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